

References

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Book Review

Compte rendu de livre

Sheep and Goat Medicine, 2nd edition

Pugh DG, Baird AN. Elsevier, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, 2012. 621 pp. ISBN: 9781-4377-2353-3. \$144.50.

The title is somewhat misleading; this is so much more than a medicine text. Interspersed between the hyperbole, the back cover gives a realistic description “including medical treatments, surgery, theriogenology, herd health and nutrition.” The editors are a boarded theriogenologist and surgeon, respectively and its multi-author approach draws on specialists from a wide variety of disciplines.

The section on physical examination is useful but suffers from some minor errors. The rectal temperature ranges are given in both Celsius and Fahrenheit but are not the same. The attempt to differentiate between cortical and cerebral disease is confusing. Chapter 1 also gives straightforward and well-illustrated directions for the safe and efficient handling of small ruminants.

Chapter 2 is a helpful overview of small ruminant nutrition and gives guidelines for appropriate dietary TDN and protein concentrations. These are probably expressed on a 100% dry matter basis, although this is not always explicitly stated. The mineral section is appropriately comprehensive and highlights the differences in copper requirements between different breeds of sheep and between sheep and goats. The chapter contains instruction on how to reliably feed minerals as well as different methods to balance the ration. There are also detailed instructions on feeding sheep and goats at different stages of their life and guidelines on preventing and treating the common nutrition-related diseases.

Chapters 4 to 17 describe the various conditions of sheep and goats on a system-by-system basis. Clinical signs, medical and surgical treatment, and prevention are all appropriately covered. The text is easy to read and clearly laid out. There are many high quality photographs, which are often in color. In general the number of images is more than typically found in printed textbooks. There are occasional omissions — photographs of foot-and-mouth disease lesions would be helpful to those prac-

ticing in exotic locations. The index is good but could be more comprehensive — for example, it refers to very useful sections on bluetongue in the hemolymphatic and other chapters but does not reference the section in the oral-esophageal disease chapter.

An excellent chapter is the newly added Chapter 6 on internal parasites. This gives detailed instructions on how to inexpensively perform a fecal float using the modified McMaster’s technique in your practice laboratory. It discusses the use and limitations of the FAMACHA system for in the field decision-making. The section on control measures discusses methods to limit resistance, gives dosages and formulations appropriate for use in small ruminants, and emphasizes different treatment recommendations for sheep and goats. For the future, there are short sections on methods of parasite control that are not yet commercialized.

The theriogenology section (Chapter 8) is another comprehensive and excellent chapter. For example, the section on ram breeding soundness examination carefully takes you through the steps of physical examination, semen collection, and laboratory evaluation. It gives guidelines on the categorization of rams and also on appropriate rates of use.

Throughout the text, there are excellent descriptions of surgical techniques. As someone in private practice for the first time, I found the step-by-step illustrated descriptions of how to perform various techniques very handy.

Chapter 18 describes anesthesia, Chapter 19 herd health, and Chapter 20 necropsy.

Overall, I found this book to be an excellent and comprehensive treatment of the diseases and management of sheep and goats. I would very highly recommend it for the library for any practice involved in sheep or goat practice (I intend to keep my copy handy) and for students with a strong sheep or goat interest.

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